

# Iowa State Child Care Advisory Council

Michael Marshall  
Secretary of Senate  
State Capitol  
LOCAL

Mark Brandsgard  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol  
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Marshall and Mr. Brandsgard:

Enclosed are copies of report to the General Assembly pursuant to the directive contained in SF 2432, Sec. 16. Department of Human Services, page 6, line 24 through page 8, line 18. The State Child Care Advisory Council (SCCAC) was directed to form a workgroup and submit a report with findings and recommendations to improve the regulatory system for home-based child care providers. In particular, SCCAC was directed to explore options for the implementation of mandatory registration, voluntary licensure, and mandatory licensure. In addition, SCCAC was directed to submit findings and recommendations regarding child care provider professional development, and consumer education.

Working collaboratively with Early Childhood Iowa, Community Empowerment and other stakeholders the workgroup developed the following overarching recommendations, to be phased in over a three – ten year period:

- Iowa should move from a registration-based regulatory system to a licensure system for home-based child care. All persons, providing child care on a regular basis in a home setting for more than one child unrelated to the provider should be subject to licensure. This would include the implementation of annual inspections of home-based child care providers.
- A quality workforce should require a core set of pre-licensing training requirements as well as on-going professional development requirements that support the development of children.
- Adequate child care assistance reimbursement rates should be established to create greater access to quality child care for low income families, and reward providers who demonstrate higher quality of care.
- Build on and expand current efforts to educate parents, policy makers, private enterprises and the general public about the importance of the first five years of a child's life and the benefits of having a quality early care, health and education system.

The State Child Care Advisory Council was honored to study the issues and provide recommendations to better assure children in home-based child care are in safe and nurturing environments.

If you have any questions regarding this report please feel free to contact me or the Council's key Department of Human Services liaison, Jeffrey Anderson.

Sincerely,



Barbara Grundleger  
Vice-Chair  
State Child Care Advisory Council